

The IBEW is as old as commercial electricity. In 1891, 2 years before electricity made Chicago the White City, the IBEW formed to protect the rights and safety of those brave workers willing to work on electrical and telecommunications. They would be the ones who brought power across the country, and today, they have a membership of 750,000 worldwide.

Steve started out in the storied electrical industry while he was still in high school. He worked as a shop assistant for Bradley Electric. He eventually became the owner of the residential division of Bradley Electric.

In 1975, he was initiated into the IBEW Local 963 in Kankakee, IL, as a residential wireman. The next year, the local IBEW chapters merged to form IBEW 176. In 1982, he became a journeyman wireman and moved into companies such as Comstock and Company and Meade Electric.

By 1990, Steve became an agent in the Local 176 business office. He founded the IBEW 176 sick, injured, and needy committee, which helps members in difficult times. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been used by the committee to help so many people through the tough times.

Through all of this, Steve stayed involved in politics and helped candidates who would help working families of Illinois. In 2010, he became business manager of Local 176 and apprenticeship program numbers increased. He also expanded political work by chairing the 176 PAC committee and a committee on political education. If a business hired in Kankakee or Iroquois County hired from outside, Steve was at the frontlines fighting for families to keep them from being left behind by the local economy.

Steve is retiring now to spend more time with his wife of 45 years, Candy. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH CARPENTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is with great appreciation and a touch of sadness that I note the upcoming retirement of Sarah Carpenter. Her retirement culminates 20 years of dedicated service as the executive director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, VHFA. Through her enduring commitment to affordable housing, Sarah has helped tens of thousands of Vermonters into homes and helped to establish and shape our State's affordable housing infrastructure.

Sarah's career spanned four decades during which time she was a consistent leader in the affordable housing community. As executive director of Cathedral Square Corporation between 1983 and 1998, Sarah worked to develop and manage housing that met the needs of differently abled and aging Vermonters. She oversaw the operation of 430 units of supportive housing and provided housing development and management assistance to 20 projects across the State.

As executive director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Sarah advanced the agency's mission to finance and promote affordable, safe, and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters. Sarah oversaw \$2.2 billion in lending in Vermont, and in her time with VHFA, the agency closed over 10,000 home loans, making a significant contribution to homeownership in the State of Vermont. She has been an effective leader whose work has expanded the amount of permanent supportive housing dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. Not only was Sarah an inspiring leader, she was also a strong and compassionate manager. Since 2015, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine have included VHFA on their list of Vermont's Best Places to Work.

Sarah's contribution to the affordable housing community extends into her community service. She is a founding member of the Housing Vermont board and a founding member of the Burlington Community Land Trust. She has been a member of dozens of boards and special committees dedicated to various aspects of housing finance and the promotion of safe, affordable, and decent housing for Vermonters of all means. Her service has been recognized by numerous awards, including the Senator Patrick Leahy Leadership Award from the Committee on Temporary Shelter in 2007.

Sarah is a lifelong Vermonter who has dedicated her career to ensuring those in her home State can afford a home. She was a key architect of the system that today creates and finances the production and preservation of affordable rental housing across the State. She has worked closely with my office to improve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, including ensuring priority is given to projects that propose to target 25 percent of their units to Vermonters who have experienced homelessness. Sarah's informed advocacy has strengthened this and other Federal housing programs so they can work for Vermont and Vermonters. I commend her service to the State and thank her on behalf of the countless Vermont families that she has helped into homes.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN L. RYDER

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise in response to a unanimous consent request from my good friend, the senior Senator from Tennessee, to consider the nomination of John L. Ryder of Tennessee to be a member of the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, known as TVA. As I mentioned in Mr. Ryder's confirmation hearing, I have long encouraged TVA to be an industry leader in the power sector, not a laggard, especially when it comes to clean energy and energy efficiency. While I am not prepared to object to Mr. Ryder's nomination at

this time, I am quite concerned about TVA's handling of the December 2008 Kingston Fossil Fuel Power Plant coal ash spill clean-up efforts and would like to say a few words about my concerns.

Last week, a Federal jury in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee found that the contractor used by TVA to clean up the coal ash spill, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., did not adhere to worker safety or health requirements, potentially causing sickness and death. Although TVA was not on trial, there were troubling testimonies from workers that called into question TVA's conduct during and after the clean-up efforts. The court decision allows for the families of the workers affected to seek compensation for medical treatments and damages. To date, reports show that over 30 Jacobs Engineering Group workers have died since working on the Kingston coal ash clean-up efforts and 250 workers are sick.

In his nomination hearing, I called on Mr. Ryder to commit to ensure TVA is a good actor in regards to the Kingston Fossil Fuel Power Plant coal ash spill and is transparent to the employees and families that are or may be affected by this issue. He promised me he would do so. However, I want Mr. Ryder and my colleagues to be on notice that I will be working on this issue as an oversight matter and will make sure all the members of the TVA board and the entire workforce at TVA are good actors when it comes to this issue. Thank you.

#### CONFIRMATION OF RYAN NELSON

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator JAMES E. RISCH, I congratulate Judge Ryan Nelson of Idaho Falls on his Senate confirmation to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Throughout his diverse legal career, Ryan Nelson developed the necessary tools to serve the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as a sound and principled jurist. Since 2009, Ryan Nelson has served as general counsel of Idaho Falls-based Melaleuca, Inc. Before joining Melaleuca, Mr. Nelson served in the Federal Government as special counsel for Supreme Court nominations to the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; as deputy general counsel to the White House Office of Management and Budget; and as deputy assistant attorney general in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice, DOJ. At the DOJ, Mr. Nelson argued 13 cases in the U.S. Courts of Appeals and was division counsel for 50 briefs filed in the Supreme Court. Before joining the DOJ, Mr. Nelson practiced in the Washington, DC, office of Sidley Austin LLP, where he was a member of the firm's appellate, litigation, products liability, and religious liberties practice groups.

Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Nelson served as a law clerk to Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to Judges Charles Brower and Richard Mosk of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal at The Hague. Mr. Nelson earned his B.A. from Brigham Young University, BYU, and his J.D., with honors, from BYU Law School, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served as a lead articles editor of the BYU Law Review.

Ryan has been widely recognized by his colleagues for his judgement and legal expertise and will respect and be a servant of the law. He understands that a judge is responsible for interpreting and applying the Constitution and laws of the land as they are written and not to be a maker of laws from the bench.

Congratulations, Ryan, on your confirmation, and thank you for bringing your valuable perspective to the court.

#### TRIBUTE TO WOMEN VETERANS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today, on the week we celebrated Veterans Day, I wish to pay particular tribute to our Nation's women veterans. Maryland women served our Nation long before they were permitted to serve in the military, from Mary Digges Lee, who collected money and supplies to support the Revolutionary Army, to Harriet Tubman who spied for the Union in the Civil War. Today Maryland is home to over 50,000 women veterans. Our Maryland National Guard is led by the extraordinary Adjutant General Linda L. Singh and, for the first time this year, an all-woman command staff.

As we honor our veterans, we must also keep the promises we made, as a nation, to them. That requires understanding and addressing the unique and complex needs of our women veterans. We know that they suffer higher rates of PTSD and suicide than their civilian counterparts and have medical issues that are too often overlooked or ignored. Later this week, I will be meeting with some truly heroic Maryland women who have served their Nation and continue to serve each other. I look forward to their insight on the programs and services they use and the ways we can expand the networks that might deliver the support our women veterans deserve.

This Congress has worked on a bipartisan basis to support our Nation's veterans, and we must continue those efforts. There is still much to do, from ensuring that the VA system delivers the care and programming that Congress has authorized, to assessing the feasibility of peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans, with emphasis placed on women who suffered service-related sexual trauma or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

We live in freedom because of those brave Americans who have chosen to take up the mantle of service in uni-

form; they deserve our full support in making the transition to civilian life, on an equal footing, regardless of gender, after that service is finished. Women veterans should not face unequal treatment; we need to broaden the discussion and strive to make things better for America's daughters who have served. Every veteran must know that they have our respect and gratitude and that we will support them as thanks for their sacrifice.

#### TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY J. GOODE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Timothy J. Goode on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia. Chief Deputy Goode is stepping down after a long career of accomplishment and service to his country and to West Virginia.

Since he came to West Virginia, my staff and I have had the pleasure of working with Chief Deputy Goode and his colleagues in the Southern District office. He has been a consistent advocate for the U.S. Marshals Service and served as a valuable liaison between the Service and my office. Before he came to West Virginia, he had already accrued a number of accomplishments in a storied career.

Chief Deputy Goode received his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University in 1983, entering the U.S. Marshals Service as a deputy in 1986. Over the next three decades, he served as a mentor to numerous deputies, coordinated and led operations that resulted in the arrest of dangerous criminals, and served in various administrative and informational capacities, including two stints as Acting U.S. Marshal. Among his many approbations was a special recognition by the Indiana General Assembly in 1990 for his role in the arrest and extradition of General Manuel Noriega.

In addition to his long record of service, Chief Deputy Goode serves as a Sunday school teacher and holds a master's degree in Christian Ministry. An outdoorsman, he is also an avid hunter and fisher. Finally, and most importantly, he is a devoted husband to his wife, Kyle.

Exemplary public service should be praised, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Deputy Goode for his service. I wish him well in retirement and in his future endeavors. It is an honor to call him a friend and fellow West Virginian.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. DOTTY MERRILL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a leader who has devoted more than three decades to Nevada's kids, its schools, and its educators: Dr. Dotty Merrill. For more than 35 years, Dr. Merrill has been an educator, an advocate, and a leader in

fighting for the best possible opportunities for our students and teachers. She continues to be a leader as the executive director of the Nevada Association of School Boards, a role she has held since October of 2006.

Dr. Merrill graduated with a bachelor of arts from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, a master of arts in English from the University of Nevada, Reno, and finally with a doctorate in educational leadership, also from the University of Nevada, Reno. Nevada is truly blessed that Dr. Merrill has taken her education, experience, and passion and devoted it to our State's education system. Her work in the Washoe County School District was instrumental in developing a set of education standards that aligned with Federal standards and strengthened the 21st century education our kids need for a brighter future. She has continued the fight for our kids on behalf of the Washoe County School District at the Nevada Legislature where she has been a key voice for local educators as the Silver State has debated how best to improve our school system, train our teachers, and ensure that every child in Nevada has the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed in the classroom.

I would like to thank Dr. Merrill for all she has done for our kids, our schools, and our teachers in the Silver State, especially in her commitment to improving classroom instruction, developing initiatives that ensure accountability, and fostering collaborative relationships among stakeholders that achieve the best results for our kids.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Dotty Merrill's lifelong commitment to education and service to the Washoe County School District, the city of Reno, and the State of Nevada. Thank you to Dr. Merrill for all that you have done and for your life's work fighting for a quality education for Nevada's children and standing up for the necessary support and resources for the Silver State's teachers. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO HANNAH GUILLEMETTE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, for the October Granite Stater of the Month, I would like to recognize an extremely thoughtful and motivated young woman who has made it her mission to address bullying in our school communities, Hannah Guillemette. Hannah, a high school freshman from Bedford, NH, started her anti-bullying and kindness campaign "I've Got Your Back," also known as IGYB, when she was in middle school just over a year ago. She began by distributing 600 IGYB wristbands with a mission tag prompting her peers to include, be kind, and respect each other in her community, and the effort quickly grew and has touched almost 30,000 people across New Hampshire and 14 other States.

Hannah was inspired to act after witnessing bullying in her own school and